

City Lights

A Business-to-Business Publication from Marietta Power

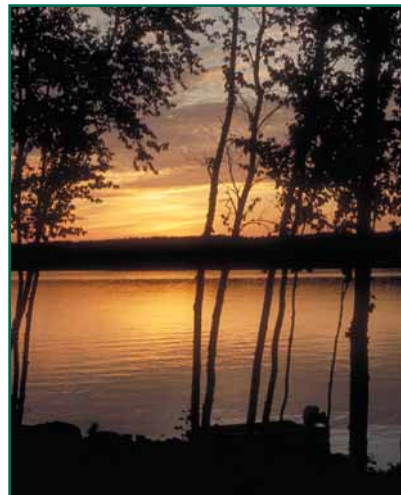
Fall 2003

Marietta: Where does our water come from?

By Bruce Coyle

The City of Marietta is a member of the Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority (Authority). This public utility was founded in 1951, to provide wholesale drinking water to Cobb County and the City of Marietta. The system consists of two large water-treatment plants, several large water-tank storage sites and 184 miles of large-diameter distribution pipelines. Since its creation, the Authority has become a regional wholesale water provider to Cobb, Cherokee, and Paulding Counties; Douglasville/Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority; cities of Marietta, Austell, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Smyrna, Mountain Park, and Woodstock.

In 1953, the Authority built the first water treatment plant in East Cobb. This plant withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River. The intake for this facility is located where Johnson's Ferry Road crosses the Chattahoochee River. The James E. Quarles Plant is located off Lower Roswell Road and



currently treats about 64 million gallons of water a day. Most of this water is distributed and used in the eastern side of Cobb County and Marietta.

In 1963, the Authority began withdrawing water from lake Allatoona. This Lake is fed by the Etowah River which is part of the Coosa River Basin. This water is treated at the Hugh A. Wyckoff Plant. The plant is located off Mars Hill Road. The intake for this plant is near the Proctor Creek Day Use Area in lake Allatoona. The facility treats about 72 million gallons of water a day. The majority of its water is distributed to the north and west side of Cobb County.

Plans are underway to expand both of these facilities to meet the growing demands in the region. You can do your part through water conservation. ⚡

Editorial Focus

BLW Member Bruce Coyle Works to Keep Marietta's Water and Sewer Systems in Sound Operating Condition

Bruce Coyle has devoted a great deal of attention to ensuring that city's water and sewer systems remain in good working order since he joined the Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW) in June 2002.



Bruce Coyle

"I have worked with water and sewer systems my entire adult life, so I sort of act as the Board's resident caretaker of the City of Marietta's water and sewer systems," Bruce told *City Lights*. "We have to constantly maintain and upgrade these systems to ensure that the city doesn't run into major problems like some cities in the state have encountered. We also have to do it in a way that allows our customers to continue to enjoy reasonable rates."

Bruce's experience in working with water and sewer systems made him an ideal choice for his role on the BLW board. He went to work as a wastewater plant operator for the City of Augusta shortly after graduating from high

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Arbor Day Reminds Us Why Trees Are So Important

We rely on trees for shade in the dog days of summer, for materials to build our homes, and to enrich our lives in many other ways. For that reason, your friends with the Marietta Board of Lights and Water strongly encourage you to join your fellow Georgians in planting a tree to celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, Feb. 20.

The idea of holding the first Arbor Day observance sprang to life in the fertile soil of Nebraska, where J. Sterling Morton and his wife began planting trees as soon as they moved to the territory in 1854. When he became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, Morton often wrote and published stories about the importance of trees. Out on the frontier in those days, settlers needed trees for fuel, as well as for building materials and shade from the hot sun. Trees also helped hold topsoil in place by serving as windbreaks.

As a result, Morton quickly discovered that many other Nebraskans shared his enthusiasm for trees and eagerly read the agricultural information included in his stories. In addition to encouraging individuals to plant trees, Morton urged civic groups and organizations to do so as well.

Morton went public with his idea for a tree-planting holiday on Jan. 4, 1872, at a meeting of the Nebraska Board of Agriculture. Board members selected April 10, 1872, as the date of the first Arbor Day observance and offered prizes to individuals and counties that properly planted the largest numbers of trees on that day. State officials estimated that Nebraskans planted more than 1 million trees on that first Arbor Day observance.

Nebraska officials eventually declared Arbor Day as a legal holiday. They also selected Morton's birthday, April 22, as the date for its permanent observance.

Before the 1870s ended, other states also passed legislation to clear the way for Arbor Day observances. In 1882, the tradition also took hold in schools across America.

Most states settled on the last Friday in April as the best time to observe Arbor Day. Georgia and several other states, took a different approach, however. The Peach State chose a date more suitable for tree planting in our area. Since trees planted between November and mid-March have the best chance to become well established before the hot Georgia summer arrives, this state celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in February.

Other nations around the world also established their own Arbor Day traditions through the years.

For more information on Arbor Day, please visit the National Arbor Day Foundation web site at www.arbor-day.org. ⚡



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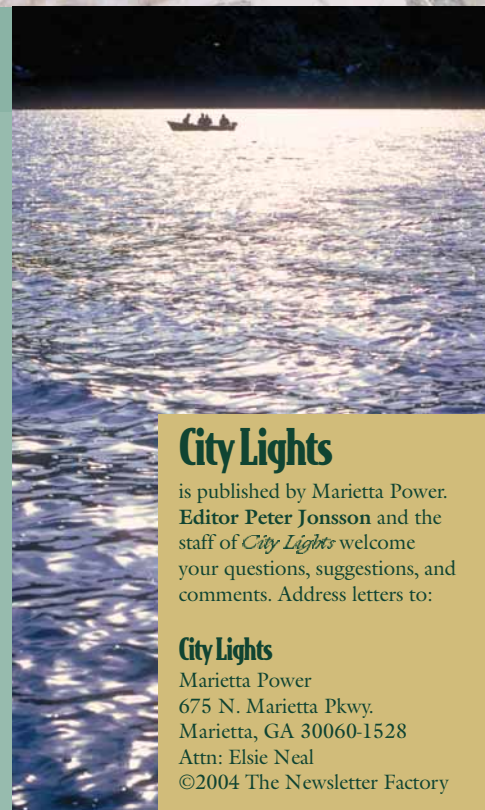
school in New Jersey. Bruce also married his wife, Anne, in Augusta, where the couple lived until 1976.

In that year, Coyle accepted a position with the Cobb County Water and Sewer System and moved his family to Marietta, where he also attended college full time. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic State University in 1980. He has served as county engineer for the Paulding County Board of Commissioners since 1986.

Bruce became a Georgia professional engineer in 1990 and currently holds a variety of Georgia licenses pertaining to water and sewer issues. In addition, he has worked for several consulting engineers, including Welder and

Associates of Marietta. Professional organizations to which he belongs include the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, the Water and Environment Federation, and the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association.

Bruce has two sons Benjamin and Andrew, who attend West Georgia College in Carrollton and Marietta high school, respectively. When not safeguarding the area's water and sewer systems, Bruce likes to go hunting, fishing, and canoeing. He also enjoys attending Marietta High football games and wrestling matches, and participating in Boy Scouting activities with his son Andrew. ⚡



CityLights

is published by Marietta Power. Editor **Peter Jonsson** and the staff of *City Lights* welcome your questions, suggestions, and comments. Address letters to:

CityLights

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Employee Profile



Randy Holcomb

Randy Holcomb Prepares Marietta Power Employees to Do Their Jobs Safely and Efficiently

Randy Holcomb enjoys preparing Marietta Power employees to perform their duties safely and efficiently, which makes him an ideal choice to serve as safety and training director for the city-owned utility's electrical distribution department.

"I enjoy passing on the knowledge I've gained during my 31 years with Marietta Power," Randy said recently. "Everyone here has always demonstrated a great interest in gaining more knowledge, which shows the quality of the people who work here and their commitment to Marietta Power customers."

Randy adds that workers often knock on his door to request new classes or seek additional certifications. He gladly obliges such requests. Plus, he coordinates the department's regular monthly safety meetings, investigates accidents, supervises the testing of safety equipment, and oversees the purchasing of tools used by Marietta Power work crews. He has also helped set up the program to train workers in the use of cardiac defibrillators, which will soon become standard equipment for all work crews.

"All electrical utilities have begun installing defibrillators in their trucks,"

Randy said. "After all, if an electrical worker experiences a high-voltage shock, it often puts the heart into fibrillation. The sooner you can get a defibrillator to a person in that condition, the better."

Randy assumed his current role with Marietta Power nearly four years ago, when his mentor Leroy Pitner retired.

"I have always tried to conduct myself the way Leroy Pitner did when he was running our crews," Randy said. "Many of us in the distribution department have been thinking about Leroy a lot lately, as he has struggled with health problems. He's very well thought of here, and we're all hoping for the best."

The workers' concern for Pitner also reflects the family atmosphere within the department. Distribution department employees frequently get together for after-hours cookouts and arrange special lunches for a variety of occasions.

This team spirit remains strong during work hours as well.

"We have the finest people in the industry," Randy said. "For example, if a storm knocks out power in the middle of the night, we don't have to call people to come into work. They call first asking if we need help."

Having come up through the ranks himself, Randy appreciates that kind of work ethic. He joined Marietta Power as a groundsman more than three decades ago, shortly after returning from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He went on to become a lineman and continued to work in that capacity for 15 years before becoming a line foreman. He then spent 10 years as line foreman before taking on his current assignment.

When he's not taking care of the distribution department's training and safety needs, Randy spends his time with his wife of 31 years, Peggy, or goes trout fishing with son Jacob or his brothers. Randy also enjoys woodworking in his free time. ⚡



Send Us Your News

City Lights needs your news. We want to include information about Marietta businesses in our upcoming issues of *City Lights*. Please send us your press releases, company updates, and announcements so we can share your good news with your neighbors.

Also, we would like your comments on *City Lights*. What would you like to see added? What can we do to improve our publication?

We would also like to know if we've sent *City Lights* to the right person. If you or your associates would like to be added to our mailing list, drop us a line. ⚡

Please send your information to:
Pete Jonsson or Elsie Neal
City Lights
 City of Marietta/Marietta Power
 675 North Marietta Parkway
 Marietta, GA 30060
 Or fax (770) 794-5195



Jan. 21 - Feb. 29, 2004

Side Man

by Warren Leight

Theatre in the Square

Call 770-422-8369

for more information

January 24, 2004

Saturday

Love The Loop

9 a.m.

Public Works Complex

750 North Marietta Parkway

Volunteer groups are appreciated in

this clean-up effort on and around

the Marietta Parkway.

Call Keep Marietta Beautiful at

770-794-5606 for more information.

February 20, 2004

Friday

Arbor Day

March 10 - April 18, 2004

A Raisin In The Sun

by Lorraine Hansberry

Theatre in the Square

Call 770-422-8369

for more information

May 5 - June 13, 2004

Keep On The Sunny Side

by Douglas Pote

Theatre in the Square

Call 770-422-8369

for more information

April 25

Sunday

Taste of Marietta

Marietta Square

City Lights

Marietta Power

675 N. Marietta Pkwy.

Marietta, GA 30060-1528

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